



Signs of Spring

Spring is a time of renewal, an awakening of nature. Watch for the many signs of spring while traveling through the park. Look for colorful lowland wildflowers like the odorous yellow skunk cabbage and the tripetaled western trillium that turns from white to pink or purple as the flower ages. Spring brings the return of many birds to Mount Rainier



Skunk Cabbage (Lysichitum americanum)

following their winter vacation. Watch for the orange flickering of the wings of the Northern Flicker and listen for the call of the chickadee (some say it sounds like "cheese-burger"). Snowmelt fills rivers and streams with clear running water unlike the silted, muddy glacier-melt water of summer. Listen for the greeting of chattering Douglas squirrels as they scamper through the forest on their never ending search for food. Take time to enjoy these and the many other signs of spring.

Priceless...

Movie & popcorn for two, \$25 – Concert Tickets, \$80 – Entry into Mount Rainier, Priceless! Magnificent old growth forests, cascading waterfalls, spectacular mountain views, glaciers, trails, rustic architecture, solitude – all this and much more for a \$15 entry fee per vehicle, good for a week's visit. This is the first time the park's vehicle entrance fee has increased in nine years with the new fee comparable to, or lower than, other similar national parks. All other park entry fees remain unchanged from 2005.

Your entrance fees are critical to the park. Eighty percent of the fees collected stay in the park and go directly into improving facilities and providing services that are important to visitors with the other 20% going to other national park units that do not collect entrance fees. As you travel through the park you can see evidence of visitor fees at work.

Watch for a new face on roadside and trailside exhibits and evidence of ongoing installation efforts throughout the park. Entrance fees are funding replacement of 20-year-old exhibits with new exhibits containing up-to-date information on park resources, features and trails.

Entrance fees also help to restore wildflower meadows enjoyed by thousands of visitors each year. Almost 240,000 native plants have gone into restoration and revegetatation of the former Sunrise auto campground since 1997. The project brings park staff and volunteers together to perform hands-on conservation and restoration work.

In 2006, entrance fees will cover some of the costs associated with rehabilitation of the Paradise Inn and construction of the new visitor center at Paradise.

These projects and many more are funded by entrance fees paid at Mount Rainier's gates. The \$5 increase will enhance park efforts to restore meadows and improve campgrounds, trails, roads, buildings, exhibits, media and educational opportunities. By paying your entry fee you are an important partner in improving facilities and services at Mount Rainier National Park. Thank you for your support!

The Future of Historic Paradise

How would you like to see inside Mount Rainier's volcano, peep beneath the winter snowpack anytime of year, and explore Native American ties to the mountain? At the new Paradise Visitor Center you will be able to do all these things and more! The new visitor center will be much smaller and significantly more sustainable than the existing Henry M. Jackson Visitor Center which no longer meets present-day fire, safety, or accessibility standards, and is extremely expensive to operate and maintain. The new building is designed to be compatible with the park's National Historic Landmark District. Construction of the new facility will begin this summer with completion expected in winter 2008.

Paradise Inn has witnessed a lifetime's worth of changes—inside as well as outside its walls. Stepping into Paradise Inn is like stepping back in time when the Inn was bustling with tourists in long skirts and woolen traveling suits. Today, the Inn is a National Historic Landmark and is a contributing feature to the park's National Historic Landmark District. After 88 years of wear and tear on the structure it is time to make seismic improvements, and shore up the foundations. While we're doing the structural work, we will do some historic rehabilitation to assure the setting and landmark building maintains its charm and historic significance. Rehabilitation of the Inn will begin this summer with visitor use resuming May 2008.

During the construction seasons (summers 2006 & 2007) the number of parking spaces at Paradise will be significantly reduced. The park intends to provide a no-cost shuttle system that will transport visitors in and around the Paradise area, to assure easy access to the Jackson Visitor Center and Paradise trail system.

We appreciate your patience during the restoration of Paradise.

Welcome ...

to Mount Rainier National Park, one of the crown jewels of the National Park system and an icon of the Pacific Northwest! Look around you as you travel to and from "The Mountain"



Superintendent Dave Uberuaga

and you will see it reflected everywhere – on billboards and signs, in business names, and in many regional publications! Mount Rainier National Park was established on March 2, 1899 to preserve and protect this unique place. Now, 107 years later, our dedicated staff of permanent, seasonal, and concessions employees and volunteers work hard to continue to preserve and protect this treasure and to assure that your visit is enjoyable. I thank them all for their commitment to this beautiful park we call Mount Rainier.

This year will present many challenges to us as we embark on two major construction projects in the Paradise area - the rehabilitation of Paradise Inn and construction of a new visitor center. These projects will be ongoing for the next two years. Paradise Inn will be closed, but the Henry M. Jackson Visitor Center will remain open during this time. All traditional services at Paradise, except for those at Paradise Inn, will be available to visitors. While we will make every effort to minimize the impact to visitors, there will be some inconveniences, especially availability of parking. We will have a shuttle system in operation in the Paradise area during the summer months to alleviate some of the parking congestion issues. I ask for your patience as we begin one of the largest construction projects in the National Park Service.

Spring is a great time to visit the park, before the rush of summer crowds. Some areas may not be open yet, due to winter snow pack and reduced staffing levels, however, there are still many things to see and do as you will see throughout the newspaper. Enjoy your visit and come back and see us again!

Dave Uberuaga Superintendent

3 Animal Encounters

What would you do if you came face to face with a black bear or mountain lion? Find out how to prepare for an encounter with the wilder side of Mount Rainier.

3 Hiking or Climbing?

Do you need a backcountry camping or climbing permit? How do you get one? Do you have the 10 Essentials with you? Are you prepared to Leave No Trace of your visit in the backcountry?

4 Park Information

Where are the visitor centers? When are they open? Which roads are open? Where can I get something to eat? Are the campgrounds open? It's all on the back page!

Geologic Hazards ... 2

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Explore Mount Rainier From Home!

Learn more about park resources, recreation opportunities, facilities, and much more on the park website at www.nps.gov/mora or go directly to one of these website pages:

Education Page

www.nps.gov/mora/education/index.htm Information on teacher workshops, field trip opportunities and more!

Employment Page

www.nps.gov/mora/employment.htm Great information on jobs within the park.

Nature and Science Page

www.nps.gov/mora/pphtml/nature.html Learn more about the park's natural resources.

Weather Links

www.nps.gov/mora/current/weather.htm Links to Mount Rainier and area weather and avalanche conditions.

Nature Notes

www.nps.gov/mora/notes/nn-intro.htm Learn about the park through the writings of old-time rangers. Nature Notes were originally published from 1923 through 1939.

Purchase a National Parks Pass or a **Mount Rainier Annual Pass Today!**



Purchase your National Parks Pass at any Mount Rainier Entrance Station, on-line at www. nationalparks.org, or by calling 1-888-GO-PARKS. Just \$50 (plus shipping and handling if you buy on-line or by phone).



If you only plan to visit Mount Rainier National Park, consider the Mount Rainier Annual Pass. It costs \$30 and, like the National Parks Pass, is good for one full



National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior

Mount Rainier National Park

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EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

Keep the "Wild" in Wildlife

Please don't feed the wildlife! Early in the history of national parks, people were encouraged to get close to and even feed wild animals but times have changed. We now know that animals that call this place home need to eat the food nature provides. Human food makes wildlife susceptible to disease and creates unhealthy conditions for humans too. Still, one of the most common mistakes people make at Mount Rainier National Park is to feed the wildlife. Visitors seeking a personal connection with animals think they are "helping" them.



What they usually don't know is that feeding wild animals hurts them in the end. Red fox (Vulnes vulnes) Beggar squirrels, chipmunks, and gray jays can become bloated and malnourished with junk food. They learn to approach cars and often get hit. Animals that become accustomed to humans and human food may pursue and injure visitors. Biologists and rangers must intervene — with killing the animal as the last resort. Furthermore, these animals are more likely to starve during less busy seasons. This doesn't help them at all!

If these aren't enough reasons to keep nature wild, feeding the animals in Mount Rainier National Park carries a \$100 fine. Please help us protect the park's wildlife for the enjoyment of this and future generations.

Mount Rainier: An Active Volcano

Recent research has improved our understanding of Mount Rainier, an active volcano. Active steam vents, periodic earth tremors, and reported historical eruptions provide evidence that Mount Rainier is sleeping, not dead. Seismic monitoring stations around the mountain should provide days or weeks of advance warning of impending eruptions. However, other geologic hazards like debris flows and rockfall can occur with little warning.



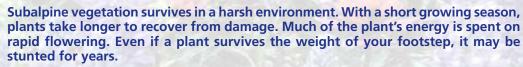
Needless to say, the longer you stay in an area where there are geologic hazards, the greater the chance that you could be involved in an emergency event. While most people consider the danger to be relatively low, you must decide if you will assume the personal risk of visiting these potentially dangerous locations.

If you are near a river and notice a rapid rise in water level, feel a prolonged shaking of the ground, and/or hear a roaring sound coming from upvalley - often described as the sound made by a fast-moving freight train - move quickly to higher ground! A location 160 feet or more above river level should be safe. Detailed information is available at park visitor centers and from scientists at the U.S.G.S. Cascades Volcano Observatory, 1300 SE Cardinal Court, Building 10, Suite 100, Vancouver, WA 98661, http://vulcan.wr.usgs.gov.

Mount Rainier Is A Place Of Great Beauty And Inspiration

You may be inspired to take a picture or to get a close-up look at a wildflower. But stop and consider your actions before you step off the trail.

With each step you take onto a meadow, an average of 20 plants are crushed!





Please hike only on maintained trails or thick patches of snow.

Park Partners

Who's responsible for protecting Mount Rainier National Park? Everyone! Here are some people who deserve special thanks:



Visitors Like You! Just by paying the entrance fee, you make a difference. Eighty percent of the fees collected at Mount Rainier are kept in the park, while twenty percent are made available to other parks in need. Your money is helping several projects right now:

- Planning for a new Education Center
- Rehabilitating park trails
- Meadow restoration at Sunrise and Reflection Lakes
- Upgrading exhibits and media
- Rehabilitating picnic areas

As you explore the park, look for signs of your fees at work!



Northwest Interpretive Association NWIA operates bookstores in the park's visitor and information centers. As a nonprofit organization benefitting educational programs in the national parks and forests of the Pacific Northwest, NWIA plays an important role in making interpretive and educational publications available to travelers. It also funds special interpretive projects in the areas it serves. For more information or membership, call (360) 569-2211, ext. 3320, or visit NWIA on the web at: www.nwpubliclands.com.



Volunteers Each year more than 85,000 volunteers donate over 3,000,000 hours of service in the national parks. They come from every state and nearly every country in the world to help preserve and protect America's natural and cultural heritage for the enjoyment of this and future generations. At Mount Rainier National Park, 943 volunteers contributed a total of 43,085 hours in 2005. We express our deep appreciation to them and to all who are volunteering in 2006! If you are thinking about volunteering, contact Volunteer Coordinator, Tahoma Woods, Star Route, Ashford, WA 98304, (360) 569-2211 ext. 3385.



Washington's National Park Fund Every year millions visit Washington State's spectacular National Parks: Mount Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic. Since 1993, Washington's National Park Fund has connected people to parks and inspired contributions of time, talent and money to help ensure that visitors have high quality, memorable experiences in our parks. This fund supports projects that enhance the visitor experience, promote volunteerism, engage communities, and provide educational opportunities. By securing financial contributions from individuals, corporations, foundations and businesses, Washington's National Park Fund supports park restoration, enhancement and preservation. Washington's National Park Fund is an affiliate of the National Park Foundation—a congressionally chartered 501(c) 3 nonprofit which was rated "A" by the American Institute of Philanthropy for responsible use of donor funds. For more information about how you can help Washington's National Parks call (206) 770-0627, visit the website at www.wnpf.org, or look for brochures in any of the park's visitor centers.



The Secret to a Great Hike...

Mount Rainier National Park offers excellent opportunities for adventure, exploration, learning, and just plain having fun! The secret to a great visit? Staying safe! Reduce your risk of spoiling your trip by following these guidelines:

Pay Attention to the Weather

Think about all the ways weather can outsmart you. It's easy to get lost or injured when the weather deteriorates, the trail is covered with snow, and you don't know where you are. You might be in an avalanche zone and not even know it.

Eyes on the Trail

You may be hiking before trail crews have a chance to clear away fallen trees or replace missing foot logs at river crossings. Be especially careful at river crossings. Many people underestimate the power of the water and are unaware of the large, rolling boulders it carries. If you must cross, go in the morning when rivers are generally lower. Beware of snow-covered trails and steep, icy slopes; thin snowbridges over streams and crevasses; snow moats; wet, slippery rocks, especially near rivers and waterfalls; and snow cornices.

Prepare and Take Care

Bring the "10 Essentials" with you and know how to use them. Tell someone your travel plans so they can notify the park if you fail to return. Do not travel alone. If visibility is poor, do not travel at all. Taking these few precautions could save your day...and your life!

Protect Yourself and Your Park

Mount Rainier National Park was established in 1899 to preserve its resources and to provide for public benefit and enjoyment. By observing the rules, you protect your park and yourself:

- Pets must be on leashes no longer than six feet and are not allowed in buildings, on trails, or on snow
- Do not feed or disturb the wildlife
- Stay on designated trails
- Make fires only in a fire grill. Collecting firewood is prohibited
- Weapons are prohibited in the park. Firearms transported through the park must be unloaded, broken down, and stored to prevent use
- Bicycle only on roads, not on trails
- Camp in designated campsites only. Sleeping in vehicles outside of campgrounds is not permitted

Interpretive Activities

Stop by a visitor center for information on interpretive activities offered during your visit. Park rangers and volunteers may be presenting talks, guided walks, or evening slide programs. These free programs explore the park's natural and cultural history.

Hey Kids! Ask for a Junior Ranger Activity Book. It's FREE and available at visitor centers. Complete it and you'll earn a badge and certificate. You'll also learn lots of cool stuff about your park!

Animal Encounters

The beauty and wonder of Mount Rainier National Park doesn't just come from the scenic grandeur of a single, towering mountain. The presence of wild creatures remains an essential part of the experience of wilderness. Being in the home of large creatures like black bear and mountain lion (cougar) can make Mount Rainier an exciting – and sometimes scary – place to visit. Though you are not likely to see them, if you do meet one of these larger mammals, learning more about them serves as your best defense – and theirs!

Black Bear Sense



Black bear (Ursus americanus)

- Never feed a black bear, either intentionally or by leaving food unsecured
- Do NOT approach bears or cubs
- If a black bear approaches you, try to scare it away by shouting and making noise
- If attacked, fight back aggressively
- Report all sightings at the nearest ranger station or call (360) 569-2211 ext. 3373 or ext. 2334

Avoiding Mountain Lions



Mountain lion (Felis concolor)

- Hike in a group rather than alone. Avoid running don't look like prey
- Keep children close to you – preferably in view just ahead of you
- Never approach cougar kittens – leave the area immediately
- Follow the rules regarding

pets in the park – don't take your pet on trails or in the backcountry and never leave it unattended at the campground – you could lose it!

Close Encounters With Mountain Lions

- DON'T RUN! Stand still and face the lion with your companions
- Immediately pick up and hold small children
- Stand upright to make yourself appear larger wave your arms and make a noisy commotion if the animal moves toward you
- Back away \boldsymbol{slowly} while facing the animal
- If attacked, fight back aggressively
- Report all sightings at the nearest ranger station or call (360) 569-2211 ext. 3373 or ext. 2334

Carry the"10 Essentials" and know how to use them!

- **▼** plan ahead & prepare
- **▼** travel & camp on durable surfaces

Leave No Trace

- dispose of waste properly
- leave what you find
- respect wildlife
- **☒** be considerate of others

*for emergency use only; fires are not allowed in Mount Rainier's Wilderness.

- - compass

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- ☑ extra food & water
 - extra clothing (warm!) & rain gear
- ✓ first aid kit
- ✓ flashlight or headlamp
 - sunglasses & sunscreen
- ☑ pocketknife
 - matches (waterproof!)*

Wilderness camping permits are required for all overnight stays in the park's backcountry. Climbing permits are required for travel above 10,000' and/or on glaciers.

Climbing Mount Rainier

About 9,000 people attempt to climb Mount Rainier each year. About half actually make it to the 14,410 foot summit. Climbing information is available at ranger stations and on the park's website at www.nps.gov/mora/climb/climb.htm. For prerecorded route conditions, call (360) 569-6009. Climbers pay a Cost Recovery Fee of \$30 per person, per calendar year.

Rainier Mountaineering, Inc. (RMI) conducts guided climbs and related seminars. Call (360) 569-2227. Guides for the Emmons Glacier Route include Alpine Ascents International (206) 378-1927, American Alpine Institute (360) 671-1505, Cascade Alpine Guides (800) 981-0381, and Mount Rainier Alpine Guides (360) 569-2889.



Wilderness Permits

Wilderness Permits are required for backcountry camping and are available at all Wilderness Information Centers and most visitor centers. Permits are free, but an optional, fee-based reservation system for campers and climbers is in effect May

through September. Backcountry reservations are \$20 per party (1-12 people) for 1 to 14 consecutive nights. Sixty percent of all backcountry sites and zones are available for reservation. The remaining 40% are issued on a first-come, first-served basis on the day the trip begins. Go to www.nps.gov/mora/recreation/wic.htm to learn more.

A Reservation Request Form is available at Wilderness Information Centers and on the Internet at www.nps.gov/mora/recreation/rsvpform.htm. Fax or mail completed forms to: Wilderness Reservation Office, Mount Rainier National Park, Tahoma Woods, Star Route, Ashford, WA 98304-9751. Fax (360) 569-3131.

Hiking the Muir Snowfield?

The Muir Snowfield, a permanent field of snow, ice, and rock outcrops, is located north of Paradise between 7,000 and 10,000 feet in elevation. Thousands of people hike on the Muir Snowfield each year en route to Camp Muir. On a clear day, the hike is spectacular. But when the weather deteriorates, as it often and unpredictably does, crossing the Muir Snowfield can be disastrous.

Don't Become a Muir Snowfield Statistic!

- Avoid the snowfield in questionable weather, especially if you are alone or unprepared. Weather conditions can change suddenly and drastically.
- If you're ascending and clouds or fog start rolling in, turn around and head back to Paradise. If that's not possible, stop moving, dig in, and wait for better weather.
- Without a compass, map, and altimeter, it is extremely difficult to find your way to the trailhead in a whiteout. Carry these items and know how to use them!
- Do not attempt to descend from Camp Muir in poor weather. Do not descend on skis or a snowboard in limited visibility — you could become quickly lost!
- When hiking to Camp Muir, be sure to carry emergency bivouac gear so that you can spend the night out if you have to.
- While it may be disappointing to abandon your hike to Camp Muir, remember that the snowfield will be there for you next time, in better weather.
- Hike only on trails or snow to protect fragile alpine vegetation.

Ask a ranger for tips on other areas to explore during your visit.

Visitor Facility Hours May - June 2006

Visitor Centers						
Longmire Museum (360) 569-2211 x3327	May - September 9:00 a.m 5:00 p.m. daily	Information, exhibits, book sales, climbing permits				
Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise (360) 569-2211 x6030	May - June 10:00 a.m 6:00 p.m. daily	Information, exhibits, movies, book sales, food service, gifts, showers				
Ohanapecosh Visitor Center (360) 569-2211 x6046	May 28 - June 18 9:00 a.m 5:00 p.m. Fri - Sun & Holiday	Information, exhibits, book sales.				
	June 23 - September 24 9:00 a.m 5:00 p.m. daily					
Sunrise Visitor Center (360) 663-2425	Opening July 1, 2006	Information, exhibits, book sales				

Wilderness & Climbing Information Centers

Longmire WIC (360) 569-HIKE	May 26 - September 7:30 - 5:00 daily	Wilderness camping & climbing permits.			
Climbing Information Center at the Paradise Guide House (360) 569-2211 x6009	May 26 - September 4 7:00 a.m Noon Sunday - Friday 6:00 a.m 3:00 p.m. Saturday	Climbing information & permits. May close in the event of a rescue or other emergency. Wilderness camping & eastside climbing permits.			
White River WIC (360) 569-2211 x603	May 26 - September 7:30 a.m 4:30 p.m. Sun - Thurs 7:00 a.m 8:00 p.m. Friday 7:00 a.m 5:00 p.m. Saturday				
Carbon River Ranger Station (360) 829-9639	May - June 1 8:30 a.m 4:30 p.m. daily	Wilderness camping & northside climbing permits			
	June 2 - June 30				

7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Fri - Sun

For lodging reservations in the park call Mount Rainier Guest Services at (360) 569-2275 or go to www.guestservices.com/rainier

Food & Lodging

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Mon - Thurs

National Park Inn at Longmire	Open year-round	Lodging, post office, and dining room serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner.				
General Store - Longmire	May - June 9 Groceries, gifts, fir 10:00 a.m 5:00 p.m. daily June 10 - September 3 8:00 a.m 8:00 p.m. daily					
Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise	May - June 10:00 a.m 6:00 p.m. daily	Grill, gift shop and showers in the basement open during building hours				
Paradise Inn	Closed for structural rehabilitation. Will re-open May 2008	Grill, gift shop and showers are available at the visitor center at Paradise				
Sunrise Lodge	Opening July 1, 2006	Food and gifts. Day use only/no overnight lodging				

Gasoline, lodging, dining, recreation equipment rentals, and other services are available in local communities. A list of these services is available at park visitor centers and on the park's website at www.nps.gov/mora. Religious services are available in local communities.

GAS IS NOT AVAILABLE IN THE PARK

Road Opening Schedule

Estimated Dates (subject to change)

Nisqually to Paradise	Open all year
Westside Road to Dry Creek	May 1
Paradise Valley Road	June 16
Stevens Canyon Road	May 26
Chinook Pass (SR 410)	TBD by WSDOT
Cayuse Pass (SR 123/SR 410)	TBD by WSDOT
White River Road to White River Campground Parking Lot	May 19
Sunrise Road	July 1
Carbon River Road	Open all year
Mowich Lake Road to Mowich Lak	e June 29

Use caution while driving this spring. Roads can be snow covered, icy or slick!

Road Construction

Spring and summer are busy times for road construction in the park. These few snow-free months give park staff a very short time frame to improve park roads.

Rehabilitation of a 3.4 mile section of SR123 will begin in late April and continue through summer and fall, between Panther Creek Bridge and Deer Creek Bridge. Expect up to 20 minute delays.

We appreciate your patience as we continue to improve visitor facilities throughout the park. Please drive carefully. Buckle up, obey speed limits, and please slow down in construction zones!

Please Recycle!

Mount Rainier National Park has been involved in recycling since the late 1960's. We reduce our consumption of resources by reusing and recycling. We recycle aluminum cans, plastic (no. 1 and 2), glass, office paper, mixed paper, cardboard, scrap metal, used oil, batteries, and a number of other items.

We also purchase recycled plastic products such as plastic bags, picnic tables, and plastic lumber; paper products made of pre- and post- consumer recycled paper; automobile products; and other products.



Be part of the effort! Please deposit aluminum cans, plastic bottles and glass in the recycle cans provided.

Accessibility

Most comfort stations, visitor centers, picnic areas, and designated campsites are accessible or accessible with help for wheelchair users. Accessible lodging is available inside the park and in local communities. In the Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise, written information, exhibits, and scripts for uncaptioned audiovisual programs are available. TDD: (360) 569-2177

Drive-in Campgrounds									
Campground	Open Dates	Elev.	Sites	Fee	Group Sites	Group Fees	Toilets	Dump Station	Maximum RV/Trailer Length
Sunshine Point	Year-round	2,000′	18	\$10	0	N/A	Pit	No	RV 27'/Trailer 18'
Cougar Rock*	May 26 - Oct. 9	3,180′	173	\$12/15*	5	\$40-64	Flush	Yes	RV 35'/Trailer 27'
Ohanapecosh*	May 26 - Oct. 9	1,914′	188	\$12/15*	1	\$40	Flush	Yes	RV 32'/Trailer 27'
White River	June 30 - Sept. 25	4,400′	112	\$12	0	N/A	Flush	No	RV 27'/Trailer 18'
Ipsut Creek No potable water	Year-round	2,300′	28	\$8	2	\$20-25	Pit	No	Not recommended

^{*} Advance reservations are recommended for Cougar Rock and Ohanapecosh Campgrounds from June 22 through September 3 (group sites from May 26 - October 8). Call 1-800-365-CAMP up to 5 months in advance or reserve your site on-line at http://reservations.nps.gov. The nightly fee during the reservation period is \$15 per site. All other campgrounds are operated on a first-come, first-served basis.